

Science Program Annual Report: October, 2000

Program Summary: The Science Program exceeded its first year goals. An Interim Lead Scientist was selected and began working in August. The role of the science program was defined as a program with a separate budget but with responsibility for incorporating science into other programs as well. The Lead Scientist has begun communicating with other programs and to agencies and stakeholders the desired characteristics of CALFED science and the types of science CALFED will undertake. Establishment of required and desired boards, panels and oversight committees was begun.

Goals:

As established in the ROD:

1. Hire Lead Scientist by Oct. 1.
2. Begin to establish oversight committees and roles of committees and panels.
3. Define Science Program and incorporation of "world class science" into CALFED, and begin communicating about this definition with agencies, stakeholders and relevant university personnel.
4. Define meaning of science and science program with regard to CALFED staff, program managers, and implementation of ROD.

Strategies for implementation:

Negotiate hiring of Lead Scientist with agencies, with US Geological Survey taking the lead. Lead Scientist identifies role of science in CALFED using ROD as guidance and previous discussions as framework. Lead Scientist begins to establish roles of committees. Lead Scientist identifies and begins to hire key staff for Science Program. Lead Scientist begins to communicate with CALFED staff, agencies, stakeholders and universities about role of science in CALFED. Implementation of "world class science" called for in ROD begins to take shape.

Progress/Accomplishments:

1. Samuel N. Luoma was selected as Lead Scientist with the help of the US Geological Survey, and began work in August, 2000.
2. The Lead Scientist has begun communicating with other programs and to agencies and stakeholders the desired characteristics of CALFED science and the types of science CALFED will undertake. Communication outside of CALFED for ideas, peer review and use of traditional scientific mechanisms to assure quality of the work will be constants in the process of conducting science in CALFED. An important goal is to establish a body of knowledge that is both, in perception and in reality:
 - a. unbiased,
 - b. relevant,

- c. authoritative,
 - d. integrated across programs and
 - e. communicated to the scientific community, agency managers, stakeholders and the public.
3. The five elements of science that will define incorporation of “world class science” are :
 - a. Adaptive management at local, regional and ecosystem scales.
 - b. Monitoring at local, regional and ecosystem scales, inc.
 - c. Resolving critical unknowns by developing a broad base of interdisciplinary and integrated knowledge of the system, including depth of knowledge in critical areas.
 - d. Science to support regulatory and mangement activities, including establishment of standing and *ad hoc* technical panels to characterize the state of knowledge about critical issues (and periodically evaluate CALFED’s progress toward resolving those issues). This activity includes supporting scientific studies targeted on those issues.
 - e. Communication of science to the public, agency-stakeholder groups and leaders, and to the scientific community via journals, technical reports, web pages, newsletters, fact sheets and other media.
 4. Establishment of required and desired boards, panels and oversight committees was begun by identifying the roles of those committees and beginning to assemble names of individuals and groups that might be represented. Lead Scientist began communication with the Interim Science Board of the Ecosystem Restoration Program and that Board will define the role of Lead Scientist in their deliberations in November, 2000.
 5. Dr. Kimberly Taylor was hired as program manager and Bellory Fong was moved from CMARP to be associate program manager.
 6. A process to consistently incorporate peer review into CALFED science was initiated and communication of that process is beginning. Work was begun on the refinement of the competitive grants program.
 7. Definition of a Science Plan for each CALFED program was begun.
 8. Definition of the Interagency Ecological Program’s role in CALFED was initiated.
 9. CALFED Science Conference was held, in which >100 presentation illustrated the strong beginning of incorporating science into the CALFED process.

Complementary Actions:

An immediate need to begin study of the Delta Cross Channel was identified with the program manager of the Conveyance Program, and a study was initiated. An immediate need to begin work on Englebright Dam was identified. A partial study was recommened to begin immediately, to be followed by a peer review process to incorporate further study.

Public Participation: Participation in the above processes was begun via meetings, discussions and talks with or for ASET, Federal-State Management Team, Bay Area

Conservation and Development Commission, CALFED Science Conference, Dept. Water Resources Environmental Specialists, Technical Committees for Dredge Re-use. Discussions with numerous key individuals from agencies and stakeholders occurred and will be an on-going activity.

Fiscal Information:

Money funded: \$0 for this specific program, although other programs funded science

Planned activities for CY'01: Begin implementing five elements of science by supporting critical work, both within the Science Program and in the other programs.

Next Steps:

The ROD requires establishing:

1. A scientific overview board for all of CALFED.
2. A scientific panel to evaluate the progress of the Environmental Water Account.
3. A science coordination committee for the science conducted in CALFED.

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